REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 14-17 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended by the present Amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al. (US Patent No. 6,198,479); and claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al.'479 in view of Humpleman (US Patent No. 6,54,619).

35 U.S.C. § 103 Rejections

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12, 14 and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al.'479. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a method for displaying positions of home network appliances. The method includes receiving an appliance characteristics data stream from the home network appliances connected to a home network, reading an appliance type identifier for indicating a type of each home network appliance connected to the home network and an appliance inherent identifier of the home network appliance, from the received appliance characteristics data stream, and generating an appliance identifier by linking the read appliance type identifier with the read appliance inherent identifier. The method also includes setting a position pointer for indicating a position of each home network appliance, reading a text object corresponding to the position pointer from a text library,

wherein the text library comprises the text object for indicating positions of home network appliances, combining a graphic object corresponding to the appliance identifier with the text object for indicating the positions of the home appliances; and displaying the combined graphic and text object on a screen. Independent claim 7 includes similar features in a varying scope.

These features are supported at least by the non-limiting example shown in Figure 7 and the corresponding description in the present application. For example, Figure 7 illustrates combining a graphic object (e.g., the picture/icon of an air conditioner) corresponding to the appliance identifier with the text object (e.g., the text "Boudoir") for indicating the positions of the home appliances; and displaying the combined graphic and text object on a screen.

On the contrary, Humpleman et al. '479 discloses connecting a client device to the home network, executing a software agent on the client device, selecting a first home device from the user interface being displayed on the device, selecting a second home device from the user interface being displayed on the device, and sending control and command data from the client device to the first and second home devices to cause the first and second home device to communicate with each other to perform the service. Humpleman et al. '479 also discloses associating a LOGO.GIF image with a hypertext link to the home page of the device's manufacturer. The LOGO image is included in the device HTML file (see Figures 6 and 7 and column 13, lines 25-67).

However, Humpleman et al. '479 does not teach or suggest at least "combining a graphic object corresponding to the appliance identifier with the text object for indicating positions of the home network appliances, and displaying the combined graphic and text object, wherein the text object indicates positions of the home network appliances", as in the claimed invention. Rather,

Humpleman et al. '479 discloses a text object for indicating the LOGO image.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted independent claims 1 and 7 and each claim dependent therefrom are allowable.

Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Humpleman et al.'479 in view of Humpleman '419. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 16 and 17 are dependent claims. Further, Humpleman '419 also does not teach or suggest the features recited in independent claim 7. Rather, Humpleman '419 merely discloses connecting a client device to the home network for displaying a user interface, executing a software agent on the client device for obtaining selection information for the network devices and displaying the selection information on a user interface displayed on the client device, selecting a first home device connected to the network from the user interface being displayed on the client device, reading second capabilities data for a second home device connected to the network, comparing the first and second capabilities data of the first and second home devices, respectively, selecting the second home device from the user interface displayed on the client device, and sending control and command data from the client device to the first and second home devices to cause the first and second home devices to communicate with each other to perform the service. However, Humpleman '419 does not teach or suggest at least "combining a graphic object corresponding to the appliance identifier with the text object for indicating positions of the home network appliances, and displaying the combined graphic and text object, wherein the text object indicates positions of the home network appliances", as in the claimed invention.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested this rejection also be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

For the foregoing reasons and in view of the above clarifying amendments, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw all of the objections and rejections of record, and to provide an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters which need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A. Bilodeau (Registration No. 42,325) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

By _____

Esther H. Chong
Registration No.: 40,953
BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP
8110 Gatehouse Road, Suite 100 East
P.O. Box 747
Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747
(703) 205-8000
Attorney for Applicant

EHC/DAB:tm